

	<i>T. platyphyllos</i>	<i>T. cordata</i>	<i>T. x. europaea</i>
Glasgow West End	134	1	225
Outwith Glasgow	6	-	2
Survivors	13	1	5

The table is a summary of the numbers of seedlings and survivors (seedlings which have lived through at least one winter since germination) found by or reported to us in Scotland in 2001. This report therefore extends the records obtained each year since 1997.

Acknowledgements

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Reference

Gray, R.K.S. & Grist, N.R. (2001). Natural Regeneration of Limes (*Tilia spp.*) in Scotland. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 23 (6), 19-21.

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ORANGE LADYBIRD *Halcyia 16-guttata* IN HYNDLAND

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The short note in the last Glasgow Naturalist (Futter and Futter 2001) drew my attention to the interest of my own sighting of a single orange ladybird on May 22, 1999. I noticed this unusual ladybird in our garden, on a rose leaf I think, one sunny afternoon, collected and photographed it and released it next morning. The photographs were shown to E.G.Hancock, more recently to Richard Weddle and Richard Sutcliffe, and the record with photographic evidence was duly entered as the first in Glasgow for this species in Glasgow Biological Records. The possible association of the species with sycamores was mentioned by Futter and Futter (2001), and there is one mature sycamore in the garden about 12 meters from where I found it. The orange ladybird is primarily a mildew feeder (Majerus 1994), but aphids and honeydew are listed as secondary foods. Most trees in our urban garden are common limes (*Tilia x europaea*) which usually generate much honeydew and black mould on vegetation below, and did so in 1999. Are these handsome ladybirds increasing in this northern latitude?

References

Futter, S. & Futter, K. (2001). Orange Ladybird *Halcyia 16-guttata* (L.) in Dumbarton. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 23 pt.6, 120.
Majerus, M. (1994). *Ladybirds*. Harper Collins, London.

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SUMMERTIME SWIFTS

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For me summer in Glasgow begins when swifts (now 'Common Swifts') *Apus apus* arrive. My first sightings this year (2001) as usual were from the roof garden of our Hyndland flat (NS560 675). I see them clearly silhouetted against the dusk sky over Gartnavel chimney tower, Bingham's Pond and greened areas to its south. This location appears to act as a convenient muster point for them to gather each evening before flying up to perhaps 3000m in order to micro-sleep on the wing without collisions and heading into any wind to avoid drifting too far from their starting point (Bromhall 1980; Blackman 2001). We wonder how they judge the direction of wind when aloft in the dark without reference points during night when it is not always clear and unclouded.

They numbered 3 on May 11th (3 days later than last year's arrival, also of 3). Those last seen also numbered 3 on August 20th (2 on Aug.18 2000) - their departure signalling the end of summer. Their numbers rose to 22 by the end of May with 16 the average maximum in July - August. These totals were somewhat fewer than last year when 24 to 30 were seen in July. Maximum counts in earlier years were 25 ('94), 28 ('95), 20 ('96-97), 18 ('98), 20+ ('99).

It is always a challenge to count these rapidly moving birds about half a kilometer away as they wheel individually and in groups. Most fly in loose pairs and show up black and clear against the bright dusk sky, becoming almost invisible when they turn head-on or tail-on to the observer, to reappear as they bank side-on. Patient scrutiny with the binoculars for several minutes can eventually achieve a reasonably steady count, avoiding double-counting as far as possible and confirmed by consistent counts over several consecutive evenings.

The numbers in early weeks are modest, around 8 to 12, increasing to roughly double in July, then falling in August to about the starting numbers. Perhaps this represents the addition of the young birds of the year that in August fly back to Africa unaccompanied. This leaves their parents free of responsibility to enjoy some remaining weeks here on their own before they too return to Africa to escape our winter. That the youngsters are genetically programmed to migrate on time to the right place without parental guidance is one of those amazing things. Another is the speed with which parental mating and egg laying, and the hatching, fledging and achievement of flight by the youngsters are completed in the few weeks of our midsummer - a tribute to the quantity and quality of our 'aerial plankton', mainly invertebrates windborne over the city.

Clare Darleston, Coordinator of 'Concern for Swifts (Scotland)', has drawn attention to the problems of urban swifts with fewer nesting places available in most of the city. My own observations do not throw much light on this problem, but I hope that my systematic observations and records may